

Intangible Cultural Heritage Update

News and updates on
Newfoundland and Labrador's
Intangible Cultural
Heritage Program

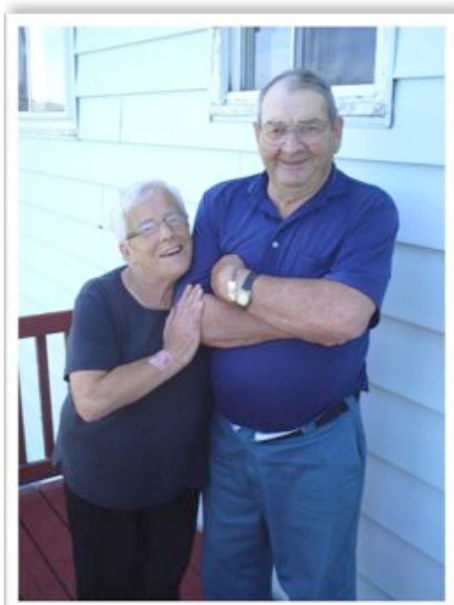
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Newfoundland Constabulary Oral History Project, Ferryland

Historic Ferryland Museum is located in the old Courthouse just a short walk from the Colony of Avalon. The building was manned by the Newfoundland Constabulary and served the Southern Shore as a Courthouse for approximately 40 years until its closure shortly after Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949. The main floor held the courtroom, magistrate's office, jail cell and telegraph office. Upstairs was a residence for the Newfoundland Constabulary member and his family. During its term as a courthouse, six officers served this area and lived in the building: O'Flaherty, Manning, Power, Lake, Hogan and Costello.

Ferryland Museum is presently conducting research on the six officers and the role they played in the history of the building and this entire area. It is their intention to use the information collected for their files which will be made available to the public for research purposes. Information will also be used for the development of an exhibit, which will become part of the permanent collection of Historic Ferryland Museum.

On August 17, 2009, Maxine Dunne of the Museum, along with ICH Development Officer Dale Jarvis and Digital Archives Intern Jed Baker, conducted interviews with Tom Sullivan of Calvert and Herb and Helen Williams of Ferryland (photo at left) about their memories of the Newfoundland Constabulary Officers. Those interviews were recorded digitally, and have been archived online as part of Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative.

Listen to the interviews online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mzt8ug>

Snubbies and Salting Fish: Conversations from Fogo Island

Over 16 hours of audio interviews with residents of Fogo Island, collected over the past thirty years, is now available on-line through the Intangible Cultural Heritage Collection on Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative.

The Province's Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer, Dale Jarvis says "In the 1980s and 90s, Dr. Gerald Pocius and Mark Ferguson visited different communities in Fogo Island and recorded their conversations with residents of Tilting, Joe Batt's Arm, Little Fogo Island, Barr'd Island, Shoal Bay, Seldom-Come-By, Deep Bay, Island Harbour and the Town of Fogo. They feature topics like the placement of stages, the methods for catching and cleaning fish, the community aspects of fishing, and personal anecdotes."



"Even by the 1990s, no one had started to document the Newfoundland fish stage--the most important architectural form of our culture. I knew Fogo Island had the largest number of surviving examples, and was the logical choice to begin such a study" says Dr. Gerald Pocius, University Research Professor, Department of Folklore.

These audio interviews are available in full on the Digital Archives Initiative and provide a clear picture of the old and current ways of fisherman on Fogo Island.

The materials collected vary across the wide spectrum of intangible cultural heritage. Included in the inventory are fishing premises and

practices, berry picking, wedding customs, fiddling, vernacular architecture, cultural landscapes, food preparation, textile traditions, and furniture.

- **Memorial University's Digital Archives Initiative can be found at** <http://collections.mun.ca/>
- **Interview with Bill Godwin, Barr'd Island - Part 1** <http://tinyurl.com/BillGodwin>
- **Bill Godwin describes a "choice fish"** <http://tinyurl.com/choicefish>

Top photo: Bill Godwin's fishing premises, Barr'd Island, 1989

Bottom photo: Fishing line reel held by Mark Ferguson in Len Brown's store, Joe Batt's Arm

Mumming Festival being planned for December 2009

By Ryan Davis, Folklife Festival Intern, HFNL

This coming December, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador will be launching their first folklife festival. In keeping with the season, this year's festival will focus on mumming. Our aim is to partner with different groups, organizations, and individuals who are actively involved with mumming—however the tradition may be expressed—and coordinate an organized schedule of events to take place throughout the month.

This festival will hopefully demonstrate the tradition of mumming within a number of different historical and geographical contexts. We wish to compile various media—newspaper articles, archive materials, photos, film, video, artworks, and other examples of material culture—related to mumming for exhibit. The festival plans to include lectures on the history of mumming, public forums allowing for a dialogue about mumming, and storytelling sessions about mumming experiences.

We plan on hosting an event where people can bring in their photographs, videos, costumes, masks, or homemade hobby horses—anything mumming related—to be documented, and later presented in an online digital archive. Those who bring in these mumming related objects can volunteer any stories or information they wish to share, adding context to this documentation project. Specialists on the mumming tradition may also be on hand to offer insights and observations about these artifacts.

Equally important is the demonstration of living traditions. The festival aims to showcase the various ways mumming is expressed today, through performance, art, and custom. While mumming has traditionally taken place in the privacy of homes, especially in rural areas of the province, a public mumming parade once occurred in St. John's. Our crowning event for this folklife festival is a revival of this parade. We envision a parade of mummers cavorting through the downtown streets, ending with a variety of organized celebratory events. We wish to encourage family, friend, and community groups to participate in the parade—to bring their own unique forms of merrymaking, dramas, skits, plays, and music.

In preparation for the parade, we hope to coordinate workshops with experienced mummers to produce masks, costumes, hobbyhorses, and other festive regalia. People new to mumming will be encouraged to attend the preliminary workshops and the lecture series to prepare for participation in the parade. Our hope is to raise awareness about the tradition of mumming through celebratory means. This festival aims to bring together tradition-bearers throughout the province and reinvigorate one of our more unique Christmastime customs.

Top Photo: Christmas in Mainbrook, by Hoodie Rowlings

Bottom Photo: St. John's Mummers, by Danielle Irvine



Internship Notes

By Jed Baker, ICH Intern

Hello. I'm Jedediah Baker, the current (and first) Intangible Cultural Heritage Intern. I work together with the Digital Archives Initiative (DAI), the Folklore Department at MUN, and the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador to get both new and archival audio, video, and imagery available and searchable online. One of my first duties was digitizing a set of audio recordings made in the 1980s on Fogo Island. A large part of my job is to add "metadata" to material collected by various folklorists and the general public. Metadata is information about the resources, including topics, location, format, and many other things. It is this information that allows these digital items to be found by searching the DAI - an online archive with over 500,000 digital items. Without metadata, these resources would be available but difficult to sort through. I also built and maintain the new MUN ICH website (<http://www.mun.ca/ich>). I am learning a great deal in this job, and I hope to help shape it for future graduating folklorists to take on and learn from as well.



Photo: A typical day in the life of the ICH Intern. Hobby Horse costume courtesy of Chris Brookes.

“Good Day, Mr. Friar!”

by Doug Wells, Harbour Breton

When I mentioned the word *friar* at a tourism strategy meeting for the Coast of Bays a couple of years ago, not everybody knew what I was talking about. Not living near a seacoast would probably explain why some would not be familiar with such a term. Physical geography would describe these unusual coastal rock formations, probably separated from the headland by water, as sea stacks. An unusual rock outcrop on a mountainside would be described as a friar as well. The older population, especially among fishermen, the word friar is always used. This coastal rock formation, carved by the sea can take on some unusual shapes, especially if the rock is of a hard granite type as is in the Harbour Breton area, in particular, feldspar (pink/red) granite. The formation often does resemble a person, or a friar, a member of a mendicant religious order. When fishermen pass by a friar, it is an old English tradition to show respect to the friar and one should remove his cap and say, "good day Mr. Friar."

This was widely practiced by the English doctor, Dr. Conrad Fitz-Gerald during his time on the south coast (Hr. Breton and St. Jacques, c.1870-c.1930) and he would always trick his companions in removing their cap/hat, at which time he would shout out, "good day Mr. Friar," and usually have a big laugh. His companions would immediately understand the reason for removing the cap.

I recently got the opportunity to visit Friar's Cove near Harbour Breton and the attached photo shows the couple of friars that can be seen there. Friar's Cove has historical significance as the location of a shipwreck in 1905. Apparently, Friar's Cove was also a convenient place for bootleggers to come with their liquor around midnight, and the buyers would meet them at Friar's Cove to get their liquor.



Music, Media and Culture Lecture Series

The Research Centre for the Study of Music, Media and Place (MMAp) has announced that its first visiting lecturer for 2009/2010 is Mr. Clary Croft of the Helen Creighton Foundation.



Born November 12, 1950 in Sherbrooke, Nova Scotia, Clary now lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia and is a performer, author, folklore researcher, recording artist and producer. The Encyclopaedia of Music in Canada has recognized Clary's contribution to Maritime folklore studies and his ongoing research into the traditional music of the Maritime provinces. He is best known for his continuing work with the collection of his late mentor, Dr. Helen Creighton, the Nova Scotian born, internationally renowned Canadian folklore pioneer. In addition to working with Dr. Creighton for the last fifteen years of her life, Clary was also responsible for cataloguing her collection at the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management. Because of this work, he has been called, "the acknowledged master of one of the richest repertoires in Canada."

Clary has enjoyed success as a recording artist and song writer. Several of his works have been arranged for choral and solo performance. His first book, *Chocolates, Tattoos and Mayflowers*, was a best seller and his biography, *Helen Creighton: Canada's First Lady of Folklore*, has been called "an important book which should sit on ... everyone's shelf who is interested in Canada" (Appleseed Quarterly).

Clary's *Celebrate! The History and Folklore of Holidays in Nova Scotia* is now part of the Nova Scotia school curriculum. His book, *Nova Scotia Moments* was a collection of items from his daily features on Halifax's Information Radio Station and *Maritime Moments* is an extension of these pieces that includes the larger, Maritime audience. Clary's narratives have been called "an easygoing style of writing that makes you feel like you're having a kitchen table conversation with

him" (Halifax Herald). His latest book, *A Maritimer's Miscellany* has consistently been on the Nova Scotia best sellers list and is already into its second pressing.

The Canada Research Chair in Ethnomusicology, in conjunction with the School of Music and the Department of Folklore, inaugurated this interdisciplinary lecture series in 2002-2003. Distinguished scholars from the academic community will be featured in a series of presentations regarding historical and contemporary musical practices.

Clary will be presenting a talk entitled "Carrying the tune: the personal reflections of a traditional music popularizer" on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at the MMAp Gallery at the Arts and Culture Centre, St. John's, at 7:30 pm. Members of the general public, as well as the university community, are cordially invited.

For further information about this series

email: bdiamond@mun.ca

call: 709.737.3701 or 709.737.2058

MMAp website: <http://www.mun.ca/mmap>

Clary Croft's website: <http://www.clarycroft.ca>

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